

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMPLEMENTING  
A GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE ACROSS  
DISSIMILAR PLATFORMS YET RETAINING  
SIMILAR LOOK AND FEEL

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method are disclosed for a functional extension of the Swing application program interface (API), which makes the platform-independent features of Swing available to legacy Java applications whose user interface is based on the abstract windowing toolkit (AWT). The enhanced API, referred to herein as AWT Swing, provides a completely portable set of graphics components, which are independent of the native windowing resources of the operating system. This allows the user interface of an application to preserve a consistent look and feel across diverse platforms, such as Windows, Unix, OS/2, etc. The use of AWT Swing also improves code maintainability; since the same user interface program serves each platform, changes or bug fixes need only be made in one body of code.

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